

SUMMARY

In Austria the monarchy's legacy included some major photographic collections, which explains why they are almost all concentrated in Vienna. Owing to the growing recognition photography has gained in public opinion and among museum directors, there has been a considerable investment channelled into preserving and opening photographic collections. In addition there has been a large increase in the number of photography exhibitions and publications on the market.

The Österreichische Nationalbibliothek (Austria's National Library), which houses almost two million objects, holds the biggest collection in terms of the history of photography. Access to the collection is simple, and anyone interested can consult the collection via the Internet. Other photographic archives are the Albertina, and the collection located in the Kunstmuseums Lentos (Lentos Museum of Modern Art) in Linz, which relate more specifically to art history.

We can note a clear pattern in the process of unifying authors' rights across Europe. In the case of artistic photography, the protection period is seventy years from when the artist passes away. For ordinary photographs the period of protection is fifty years from creation or publication, as the case may be, which complies with neighbouring laws.